REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to include the features of original claim 3. Claim 2 is amended to address informalities. Claim 3 is canceled. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 2 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter.

Claim Objection

Claim 2 was objected to for informalities. In particular, the Patent Office alleges that "but does not rotate in response to rotation by the second rotation means" is a dangling modifier. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite "the image taking block is provided inside the first rotation means in such a manner that the lid rotates relative to the main body in response to rotation by the first rotation means but the image taking block does not rotate in response to rotation by the second rotation means." Thus, it is clear that the image taking block does not rotate in response to rotation by the second rotation means.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Shibata (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0004269) in view of Manchester (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0201595). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "wherein a reference attitude is set as an attitude at which the direction perpendicular to the surface of the display means and the direction of the optical axis become the same direction, by rotation of the lid substantially ninety degrees about the rotation axis of the first rotation means and substantially ninety degrees about the rotation axis of the second rotation means relative to the main body, and wherein the display control means causes the image taken by the image taking means to be displayed as-is on the display means when in the reference attitude, and rotates the image taken by the image taking means and displays the image on the display means when not in the reference attitude." These features of amended claim 1 provide benefits that allow the possibility of reducing the amount of computation in image processing that needs to be completed compared to conventional devices.

In short, when an image is taken in a reference state, the image is displayed as-is without performing processing to rotate the image, but if an image is taken in a non-reference state, processing to rotate the image is performed. For example, as shown in Fig. 5 of the specification, a reference state is shown. When an image is taken in this reference state, because the image can be taken in the manner similar to a conventional video camera or the like, the image that is displayed on the screen does not need to be rotated, and is displayed as-is, and rotation processing is not performed. However, if display means is not in the reference position, such as that shown in Fig. 6 of the specification, the image is rotated so that the image is displayed correctly to the user.

The combination of Shibata and Manchester would not have rendered obvious the above features of claim 1 or the benefits associated therewith.

Shibata describes that when the portable device is used as a TV telephone, the main unit 10 and the flip unit 20 are opened to a position of turning them into an L-shape around the opening/shutting axis 31. See paragraph [214] and Figs. 1-3 of Shibata. Shibata describes

that when using the portable terminal as a digital video camera or a still camera, it is preferred to use the main unit 10 and the flip unit 20 in the same L-shape as that used for the TV telephone mode. See paragraphs [0225] and [0229] of Shibata. Shibata describes that when the angle of opening/shutting axis 31 is 90°, the rotation axis 32 is rotated at 90° and the first photographic lens 33 and the second photographic lens 23 are directed in the inverse direction, the portable terminal detects that it is in the case of using one of the functions of a TV telephone, a digital video camera and a digital still camera. See paragraph [0246] of Shibata.

However, Shibata describes that when the portable terminal is not in a closed state or the L-shape state described above, the sensor 55 waits for the relative direction of the main unit 10 and the flip unit 20 to become the direction corresponding to one of the above functions. See paragraph [0247] of Shibata. In other words, Shibata does not describe displaying an image if the portable terminal is not in one of the states shown in Figs. 1-3 of Shibata.

Thus, Shibata does not describe, or provide any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to, the features of claim 1 that recite "wherein a reference attitude is set as an attitude at which the direction perpendicular to the surface of the display means and the direction of the optical axis become the same direction, by rotation of the lid substantially ninety degrees about the rotation axis of the first rotation means and substantially ninety degrees about the rotation axis of the second rotation means relative to the main body, and wherein the display control means causes the image taken by the image taking means to be displayed as-is on the display means when in the reference attitude, and rotates the image taken by the image taking means and displays the image on the display means when not in the reference attitude."

Manchester does not remedy the deficiencies of Shibata discussed above. Manchester describes a self-orienting display device 12 that may be rotated to an arbitrary orientation. The display image 14 is automatically rotated so that the relative orientation of the object to a viewer is relatively constant regardless of the amount the display device 12 is rotated. See paragraphs [0025] and [0027] and Fig. 3 of Manchester.

However, Manchester does not describe the technical features of claim 1 that provide benefits that allow the possibility for image processing computation not being performed when in a reference attitude. Manchester does not describe a reference attitude, and continuously self-orients the display.

Manchester does not describe, or provide any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to the features of amended claim 1 that require "a reference attitude is set as an attitude at which the direction perpendicular to the surface of the display means and the direction of the optical axis become the same direction, by rotation of the lid substantially ninety degrees about the rotation axis of the first rotation means and substantially ninety degrees about the rotation axis of the second rotation means relative to the main body, and wherein the display control means causes the image taken by the image taking means to be displayed as-is on the display means when in the reference attitude, and rotates the image taken by the image taking means and displays the image on the display means when not in the reference attitude."

Thus, Manchester does not remedy the deficiencies of Shibata and the combination of Shibata and Manchester would not have rendered obvious claim 1.

Claim 3 is canceled, and the rejection of claim 3 is thus moot.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 2 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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